

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 19, paragraph 2, starting on line 10, please change to read as follows:

The newness determination section 233 compares the entries, which are received at another nodes and set in the configuration information synchronization table 232 by the synchronization determination sections (235₁ and 235₂) ~~(234₁ and 234₂)~~, with the node synchronization tables (234₁ and 234₂). The newness determination section 233 determines whether the configuration information is new. When it is new, the newness determination section 233 sets the configuration information (information about node and port) of the entries and the addition/deletion flags in the rest of the node synchronization tables (234₁ or 234₂).

At page 19, paragraph 3, starting on line 19, please change to read as follows:

The node synchronization table 234₁, the synchronization determination section 235₁, the transmitting section 236₁, and the receiving section 237₁ are provided correspondingly to the node N1 (the node synchronization table 134₁, the synchronization determination section 135₁ ~~135~~, the transmitting section 136₁, and the receiving section 137₁). They have a function for establishing the synchronization of the configuration information between the nodes N2 and N1. The configuration information, the addition/deletion flag, and the synchronization flag which should synchronize with the node N1 (virtual path configuration apparatus 100) are set in the node synchronization table 234₁.

At page 23, paragraph 3, starting on line 21, please change to read as follows:

The node synchronization table 334₁, the synchronization determination section 335₁, the transmitting section 336₁, and the receiving section 337₁ are provided correspondingly to the node N1 (the node synchronization table 134₁, the synchronization determination section 135₂ ~~135~~,

135 , the transmitting section 136_2 , and the receiving section 137_2). They have a function for establishing the synchronization of the configuration information between the nodes N3 and N1. The configuration information and the addition/deletion flag which should synchronize with the node N1 (virtual path configuration apparatus 100) are set in the node synchronization table 334₁.

At page 32, paragraph 3, starting on line 15, please change to read as follows:

For example, as the reception transmission virtual paths, the virtual paths #14, #24, #34, and #44 in which the port P4 of the node N3 shown in Fig. 1 is the end starting point (reception transmission side) are set.

At page 52, paragraph 2, starting on line 10, please change to read as follows:

AT step SF5, the bi-directional virtual path confirming section 143 retrieves the starting point node and the starting point port read at step SF4, and the end point node and the end point port read at step SF3 as a key from the reception virtual path list-management table 142R (see Fig. 8).

Meanwhile, when the determined result at step SF6 is "Yes", at step SF7, the bi-directional virtual path confirming section 143 retrieves the starting point node and the starting point port read at step SF4, and the end point node and the end point port read at step SF3 as a key from the transmission virtual path list-management table 142S (see Fig. 8) with the end point and the starting point being exchanged with each other.